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all hospitals and dispensaries making a specialty of treating merchant seamen.

In developing the American merchant marine there is no more important field of activity than that of making the life of American seamen more attractive, and offering opportunities for social environment that is interesting and beneficial.

To do these things will be the object of the New York Center, which should become the pioneer of other similar institutions to be established at the leading American ports.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

During the year 1919 the Union of South Africa, falling in line with Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada, established, through the enactment of its Parliament, a department of health. The act provides that the department shall be known as the Department of Public Health and shall be under the control of a minister and in respect of which there shall be a portfolio of public health.

By the text of the act the functions of the department are "to prevent or guard against the introduction of infectious disease into the Union from outside; to promote the public health and the prevention, limitation, or suppression of infectious, communicable, or preventable diseases within the Union; to advise and assist provincial administrations and local authorities in regard to matters affecting the public health; to promote or carry out researches and investigations in connection with the prevention or treatment of human diseases; to prepare and publish reports and statistical or other information relative to the public health, and generally to carry out in accordance with directions the powers and duties in relation to the public health conferred or imposed on the governor general or the minister by this act or otherwise."

The act also provides that "it shall be the duty of the department to obtain and publish periodically such information regarding infectious disease and other health matters in the Union, and such procurable information regarding epidemic disease in territories adjacent to the Union or in other countries, as the interests of the public health may require."

Without going into a detailed discussion of the provisions of the act, its scope is indicated by the matters dealt with in the separate chapters. It is divided into nine chapters relating to the following matters, respectively:

Chapter I. Administration.

Chapter II. Notification of infectious diseases.

Chapter III. Prevention and suppression of infectious diseases, subdivided into parts, as follows:

Part 1. General provisions.

Part 2. Special provisions regarding formidable epidemic diseases.

Part 3. Financial provisions regarding infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis).

Part 4. Special provisions regarding tuberculosis.

Chapter IV. Venereal diseases.

Chapter V. Ports and inland borders of the Union.

Chapter VI. Vaccination against smallpox.

Chapter VII. Public water supplies, meat, milk, and other articles of food.

Chapter VIII. Sanitation and housing.

Chapter IX. General and supplementary.

The governor general has appointed the Hon. Thomas Watt to administer the Department of Public Health.

SALESWOMEN POSE AS PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES.

A scheme which may cause annoyance to health departments has been reported to the Public Health Service from a West Virginia city. Women claiming to be nurses call at homes and present a card certifying that they are nurses and members of "The Health Society." In some cases the householder is led to believe that the "nurse" comes from the city health department or the Government. After gaining admission, the "nurse" attempts to sell a book.

This scheme, where an attempt is made to carry it out, may result in serious interference with the work of visiting nurses by causing people to look with suspicion on bona fide public health nurses sent out to give instruction in matters of personal hygiene and infant mortality.